

Message Text

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72

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 DRC-01 /096 W

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P R 172145Z JUN 74

FM AMEMBASSY GUATEMALA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 3413

INFO AMEMBASSY MANAGUA

AMEMBASSY PANAMA

AMEMBASSY SAN JOSE

AMEMBASSY SAN SALVADOR

AMEMBASSY TEGUCIGALPA

C O N F I D E N T I A L GUATEMALA 3274

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, GT

SUBJECT: LOPEZ ELECTED PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS

REF: A. GUATEMALA 3183

B. GUATEMALA 3125

1. LUIS ALFONSO LOPEZ WAS ELECTED PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS DURING LEGISLATURE'S INAUGURAL SESSION ON JUNE 15 AS EXPECTED. LOPEZ, WHO IS NOT AFFILIATED WITH ANY POLITICAL PARTY, WAS SELECTED FOR POSITION BY PRESIDENT-ELECT LAUGERUD, WHO HAD REJECTED MLN AND PID CANDIDATES. HECTOR ARAGON, THE FRUSTRATED MLN CANDIDATE FOR CONGRESSIONAL PRESIDENCY, WAS ELECTED FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT OF CONGRESS, WHILE PID LEADER DONALDO ALVAREZ HAD TO SETTLE FOR THE SECOND VICE-PRESIDENCY. THE SECRETARIAT POSITIONS WERE DIVIDED EQUALLY AMONG THE TWO COALITION PARTIES AS FOLLOWS: FIRST SECRETARY -- RODRIGO VALLADARES (MLN); SECOND SECRETARY -- JORGE CARDONA (PID); THIRD SECRETARY -- JUAN DE DIOS REYES LEAL (PID); FOURTH SECRETARY -- OTTO FERNANDEZ (MLN). VOTING FOR EACH POSITION WAS BY BLOCK, WITH ALL 36

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COALITION DEPUTIES SUPPORTING WINNING DIRECTORATE SLATE

WHILE 24 DCG AND PR D DEPUTIES VOTED FOR JOINT OPPOSITION SLATE
HEADED BY DCG SECRETARY-GENERAL DANILO BARILLAS AND PR
LEADER JORGE GARCIA-GRANADOS.

2. COMMENT: ELECTION OF LOPEZ AS CONGRESS' PRESIDENT
REPRESENTS VICTORY BY PRESIDENT-ELECT LAUGERUD OVER MLN
LEADER MARIO SANDOVAL, WHO HAD SOUGHT TO CONTINUE PERSONAL
CONTROL OVER CONGRESS BY SECURING ELECTION OF MLN MEMBER
TO SUCCEED HIM AS PRESIDENT OF THAT BODY. PRESIDENT ARANA
ALSO WAS UNDOUBTEDLY INVOLVED IN SELECTION OF HIS FRIEND
LOPEZ, WHO, WE ARE TOLD, OWES HIS SEAT IN CONGRESS TO PERSONAL
POST-ELECTION INTERVENTION OF THE PRESIDENT. ARANA'S FINE
HAND SEEMED TO APPEAR AGAIN LATER THE SAME DAY WHEN THE NEW
CONGRESS RE-ELECTED THE PRESIDENT'S BROTHER-IN-LAW, LEOPOLDO SAJCHE,
TO A SECOND FOUR-YEAR TERM AS COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF ACCOUNTS.
MELOY

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TAGS: PINT, GT, (LOPEZ, LUIS ALFONSO)
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